

Appl. No. 10/754,323
Amdt. dated October 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has now amended Claim 1, the only independent claim in the application, to bring out that the cantilevered locking latch, in a relaxed position, extends away from the base in an arc, and that the cantilevered latch flexes along the arc toward the base when it passes through the slot. The claim further brings out that the cantilevered latch flexes along the arc back to its relaxed position after it passes through the slot.

The arguments made in the previous response continue to be valid and are incorporated herein by reference.

Ziegler has a straight locking latch that does not extend in an arc in the relaxed position, and does not flex along the arc toward the base as it passes through the slot. Ziegler's latch is straight and does not flex. Ziegler's latch stays straight as it pivots toward the base from a pivot point at the base of the connector.

Cobbler's likewise has a straight locking latch and not one that, in a relaxed position is in the form of an arc. The cam surface 56/66 is fixed in the web of a beam and does not flex, as does the cantilevered latch set forth in Claim 1. Cobbler is for an end-to-end connector of main beams, wherein the connector does not pass through a slot, and does not have a cantilevered latch that is flexed toward a base by the side of the slot.

Purdy has a straight locking latch with outwardly turned engaging flaps 48. The flaps 48 are straight and do not flex

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along an arc. The flaps 48 extend from sides 46 that are likewise straight, and do not flex along at arc.

Clearly, the cited references alone or combined, do not teach or suggest the invention as now claimed.

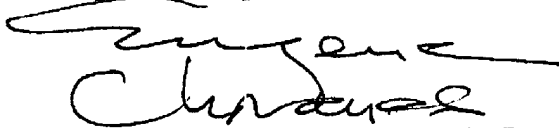
Applicants believe the invention, as now claimed, is not anticipated, and is unobvious over the prior art.

Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the final action, reconsideration and such allowance.

In the alternative, Applicants request entry of this response into the record for purposes of appeal. A Notice of Appeal is being filed herewith.

14 Oct 05

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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